

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LA PAZ 03025 251912Z

ACTION PA-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 L-03 H-01 SY-05

INR-07 /042 W

-----260154Z 112219 /63

R 251615Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5000

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 3025

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AINF, BOL

SUBJ: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION, MAJOR (RET) ELIAS BELMONTE PABON

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED PETITION FROM MAJOR (RET) ELIAS BELMONTE PABON FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING HIMSELF AND BOLIVIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS IN 1941. HE WANTS TO KNOW IF INFORMATION IS NOW DECLASSIFIED AND IF HE CAN HAVE ACCESS TO IT.

2. BELMONTE WAS BOLIVIAN MILITARY ATTACHE IN BERLIN IN JULY, 1941. AT THAT TIME AMERICAN CHARGE IN LA PAZ DELIVERED TO BOLIVIAN FOREIGN OFFICE COPY OF LETTER SUPPOSEDLY WRITTEN BY BELMONTE TO GERMAN MINISTER OF EMBASSY. LETTER IMPLICATED BELMONTE AND GERMAN EMBASSY IN PLOT TO OVERTHROW GOVERNMENT AND INSTALL NAZI REGIME IN BOLIVIA. AS RESULT, BELMONTE WAS CHIEFED FROM ARMY.

3. BELMONTE MAINTAINS LETTER WAS FORGERY. HE SAYS BRITISH INTELLIGENCE SOURCES PREPARED LETTER AND DELIVRED IT TO OSS. HE CLAIMS US GOVERNMENT USED LETTER KNOWING IT WAS FORGERY.

4. EMBASSY OFFICER HAS RESEARCHED SOME OF BELMONTE'S CLAIMS. FOR EXAMPLE, SPRUILLE BRADEN IN "DIPLOMATS AND DEMAGOGUES", ARLINGTON HOUSE, NEW YORK, 1971, PAGE 249, QUOTES A BRITISH AGENT AS ADMITTING FORGERY OF THE LETTER.

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PAGE 02 LA PAZ 03025 251912Z

5. BELMONTE WANTS TO CLEAR HIS NAME AND MAY CLAIM DAMAGES. ASKED WHY HE DID NOT APPROACH BRITISH EMBASSY AS ORIGINATOR OF LETTER, HE SAYS IT WAS US GOVERNMENT WHICH USED THE LETTER.

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6. ONLY EMBASSY RECORD ON BELMONTE IS MEMORANDUM OF OCTOBER, 1970

CONVERSATION WITH EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICER. MEMORANDUM INDICATED
POLITICAL OFFICER THOUGHT BELMONTE TO BE NAZI SYMPATHIZER AT THAT
TIME.

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BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

7. DEPARTMENT IS ASKED TO DETERMINE WHETHER, UNDER FREEDOMOF
INFORMATION ACT, 1941 RECORDS CONCERNING BELMONTE ARE AVIALABLE
TO HIM. IF THERE IS POSSIBILITY HE COULD HAVE CLAIM AGAINST US,
GUIDANCE IS REQUESTED.

END UNCLASSIFIED.

STEDMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LAPAZ03025
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770144-0368
Format: TEL
From: LA PAZ
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770424/aaaaatuh.tel
Line Count: 73
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION PA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2707237
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION, MAJOR (RET) ELIAS BELMONTE PABON BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED
TAGS: AINF, BL
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/603a969f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
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22 May 2009
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